

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

September 24, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 24, 2004, **JODY D. LOEH**, age 36, of Royalton, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. LOEH, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment, charging him with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine, was sentenced to 108 months' imprisonment, 8 years supervised release, and was fined \$400.

The investigation established that from at least September 2003, through January 4, 2004, LOEH was involved with others in the manufacture, distribution and use of methamphetamine in Jackson and Franklin Counties. On January 2, 2004, a vehicle that LOEH was driving was stopped by police in the Elkhart area. Upon a search of the vehicle, officers located methamphetamine, coffee filters, starter fluid, plastic tubing, stripped lithium batteries, crushed pills, and others precursors used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. At the time of his arrest, LOEH had already served a state prison sentence for Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working

together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.